UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/175
25 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Item 73 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 20 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament, issued at Brussels on 19 June 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 73 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament, issued at Brussels on 19 June 1996

The Presidency of the European Union expresses its satisfaction at the decision taken on 17 June by the Conference on Disarmament to admit new members, some of which are members of the European Union.

Although the Conference on Disarmament has now admitted 23 States, 13 further applications for membership are still to be considered, including those of 4 European Union members, some of which were submitted over a decade ago.

It has always been the European Union's objective that all States which have applied for membership in the Conference to date should be admitted, including the States members of the European Union.

Recalling that decision CD/1356 explicitly states that this enlargement is without prejudice to the consideration of the other candidatures to date and that the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 50/72 C, urged the Conference to give further consideration, at its 1996 session, to these remaining candidatures following the presentation of a progress report by the President of the Conference on Disarmament, the Presidency of the European Union believes that the Conference plenary should consider the remaining candidatures for membership before the end of its 1996 session with a view to taking an early decision on their admission to full membership.